

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

FEBRUARY 7, 2006

Section 8 Housing Enforcement continues to be a major issue throughout Los Angeles County. In Antelope Valley, there were discussions with the City of Lancaster which lead to a partnership with both Lancaster and Palmdale and the County focusing on Section 8 Housing oversight and enforcement. Last year my office provided \$75,000, Lancaster contributed \$50,000, and Palmdale contributed \$25,000, to hire additional Housing Authority investigators. The increased enforcement has resulted in the termination of benefits for 148 individuals who have violated the terms of their lease and, in addition, five people have been criminally charged with grand theft for fraudulently receiving Section 8 benefits. Despite the increased enforcement, and as recent press reports have indicated, a substantial amount of fraud and criminal activity is still occurring within some Section 8 units. This is unacceptable to Section 8 residents who are abiding by the law and the communities in which these Section 8 homes are located.

The County's Housing Authority currently takes a portion of the funds provided by the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) for their Section 8 program and devotes it to oversight and enforcement. To enhance the County's enforcement efforts it is vital that HUD, or Congress through legislation, allocate dedicated funding to local government for enforcement programs in Section 8 units.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

BURKE \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles to report to the Board of Supervisors within 14 days on the following:

- Identify appropriate funding sources to fund the County's portion of increased Section 8 enforcement efforts, and work with the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale to secure matching contributions.
- Prepare a five-signature Board letter to the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development, the President, and the California Congressional delegation, requesting additional HUD resources to housing authorities dedicated to enforcement programs to eliminate fraud and criminal activity.
- Provide Section 8 landlords with a proposed "crime-free" lease amendment, which they could voluntarily incorporate into their leases, and secure the consent of United States Department of Housing & Urban Development to require that Section 8 landlords incorporate a "crime-free" lease amendment.
- Support the introduction of State legislation to amend the California Health and Safety Code to require that Section 8 landlords incorporate a "crime-free" lease amendment.
- Develop policy to mandate Section 8 landlords to initiate eviction proceedings against Section 8 tenants immediately upon discovery of felonies, violation of probation, sex offenses, and/or drug-related activity.
- Prepare and implement a public outreach program to publicize the Housing Authority's toll-free hot-line telephone number for immediate investigations and reports concerning illegal activity and fraud in Section 8 units.

# # #